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Arizona Department of Education  
Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction John Huppenthal

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## **Statement of Arizona Department of Education Regarding Voluntary Agreement With U.S. Department of Education's Home Language Survey Guidelines**

**Phoenix, AZ, March 25, 2011**– Today, the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) entered into a voluntary agreement with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) and the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Civil Rights Division regarding the use of the one-question Home Language Survey (HLS) to identify students who should be assessed to determine whether they need English language acquisition services. In 2009, ADE moved to using a one-question HLS which asks, "What is the primary language of the student?"

"It is important to understand that ADE's participation in the voluntary agreement does not constitute an admission to OCR/DOJ's determination regarding the one-question HLS," said ADE's Director of Public Relations Andrew T. LeFevre.

"The mission of the Arizona Department of Education is to provide the best possible education for our students," said Superintendent of Public Instruction John Huppenthal. "We want students who need help learning the English language to be properly identified and receive the necessary instruction to be successful in school. With that goal in mind, I directed the Department to move back to the three-question HLS to ensure that all identified students have access to Arizona's highly effective Structured English Immersion Program.

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